

### **Remarks**

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. Claims 4, 6-22, 24-31, and 37 remain pending. Claims 4, 6, and 8 are independent. Claims 1-3, 5, 23, and 32-36 have been cancelled. Claim 37 is rejected. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 4, 6-22, and 24-31 are allowed.

### ***Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102***

Claims 34 and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,993,469 to Bortfeld. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

To facilitate prosecution of this application, claim 34 is cancelled without prejudice to filing a continuing application to reassert this claim in whole or in part, with or without modification.

Dependent claim 37 depends from allowed independent claim 4 and is allowable for at least the same reasons that the parent claim 4 is allowable. Moreover, claim 37 recites a combination of features that is independently patentable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection of dependent claim 37 should be withdrawn.

### ***Request for Interview if Any Issues Remain***

If any issues remain, the Examiner is formally requested to contact the undersigned attorney prior to issuance of the next Office action in order to arrange a telephonic interview. It is believed that a brief discussion of the merits of the present application may expedite prosecution. Applicants submit the foregoing formal Amendment so that the Examiner may fully evaluate Applicants' position, thereby enabling the interview to be more focused.

This request is being submitted under MPEP § 713.01, which indicates that an interview may be arranged in advance by a written request.

***Conclusion***

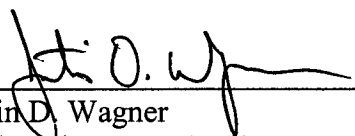
The claims in their present form should now be allowable. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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